Four laning of NH-77

†3337. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have approved the four-laning of Patna-Muzaffarpur Highway-77;

(b) if so, the funds allotted for said project and the amount spent so far; and

(c) the progress made, so far, in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) Patna-Hazipur section of NH-19 and Hazipur-Muzaffarpur section of NH-77 have been approved for upgradation to four-lane divided carriageway on Build, Operate and Transfer (BOT) basis under National Highway Development Project Phase-III. Bids for civil works on B.O.T. basis were invited but no bid documents were purchased.

Conditions of SSI Units

3338. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the conditions of Small Scale Industries in the country are deteriorating and weakening ;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of annual investment made in this regard during the last three years, State-wise; and

(d) the necessary steps being taken by Government to strengthen the SSI Sector in the country?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The State Governments and Union Territory Administrations are primarily responsible for the promotion and development of SSIs. To supplement their efforts the Central Government has been implementing several schemes/programmes. These include Integrated Infrastructure Development Scheme, Small Industries Cluster Development Programme, Entrepreneurial Development Programme, Credit Linked Capital Subsidy Scheme for Technology Upgradation, Credit Guarantee Scheme, ISO-9000/14001 Certification Reimbursement Scheme, Tool Rooms and Testing Centres, Process-cum-Product Development Centres, etc. The investment

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.